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LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the following message dated 15 March 1994 from H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, with the request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso Van-Dunem MBINDA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Message dated 15 March 1994 from the President of Angola to the Secretary-General

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to bring to your attention several of my Government's concerns regarding the situation in Angola and the negotiating process under way in Lusaka.

As you certainly know, the agenda item regarding national reconciliation is currently being discussed, and some difficulties are being experienced as a result of the behaviour of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). That party, which accepted its defeat in the legislative elections of September 1992 in which the Movimento Popular para a Libertação de Angola (MPLA) won an absolute majority, now demands equal participation in the administrative organs of the State, flagrantly violating the fundamental democratic principle by which the victorious party forms the Government and governs the country.

The Angolan Government maintains unchanged its firm proposal to do all within its reach to re-establish peace, but it will not accept the principle of equally dividing power in Angola, betraying the will of its electors and making hollow the young Angolan democracy. Such an act would also create a grave precedent in southern Africa, where parties defeated in elections would inevitably seek similar solutions through recourse to war.

The Angolan Government understands, however, the necessity for peace and the reconciliation of all Angolans for the enormous task of rebuilding the country and consolidating national unity. It is in this spirit that the Government is prepared to offer UNITA the leadership of four ministries (commerce, health, hotels and tourism, and construction materials).

At the level of vice-minister, personnel from UNITA would be named to the Ministries of Defence, Public Works, Mines, Social Communication and Agriculture. Additional positions would also be provided at other levels of government administration (provinces, municipalities and communes).

Given this willingness on the part of the Government, considered satisfactory by the mediators and by the observers, we were convinced that UNITA would react positively. This did not happen and one can verify at this moment a certain impasse.

It could be that UNITA has no reason to reach an agreement before the confused situation in the Republic of South Africa between the extreme right, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Government is resolved.

If this is UNITA's intention, the Lusaka talks will continue to drag on for an indefinite period until the patience of the mediators and the negotiators is exhausted, transforming the hope placed in Lusaka by the international community and by Angolans in good faith into an enormous nightmare.

For these reasons, I think that pressure of every kind should continue to be maintained on UNITA so that it will assume a constructive and realistic attitude in Lusaka until a broad agreement re-establishing peace in Angola is concluded.

It is important to point out that it could be relevant for the Security Council in its next meeting on Angola to establish a deadline for the end of negotiations in order that they not drag on indefinitely because of numerous subterfuges that UNITA may choose to employ.

I ask that you circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council for the next meeting at which the Angola matter is scheduled to be analysed.

Jose Eduardo dos SANTOS
President of the
Republic of Angola